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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st November 1902.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

The Amir and Russia.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 27th October does not believe what the English press says, namely, that the Amir of Afghanistan has sent an embassy to Russia expressing his desire to make a commercial agreement with that country. The new Amir is more anxious than his father to remain on friendly terms with England.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN, Oct. 27th, 1902.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

The Bankura police.

2. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd October has the following:—

There have been many murders within a short time in the Bankura district. Within a few days there have been four successive murders—two on the high road and two in villages. First, Benimadhav Mahapatra and then Dvijavar Das were murdered in the streets. The police has failed to trace these two murders. There have also been murders in Raipur and Onda, and we doubt whether the police will be able to trace them. The people of the district are alarmed to see murders taking place and the police failing to arrest the murderers. Two large camels also were killed the other day, but the Bankura police could do nothing. Information has also been received of the flaying alive of cows in many places.

BANKURA DARPAN, Oct. 23rd, 1902.

(d)—*Education.*

Text-books for vernacular schools.

3. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 23rd October writes as follows:—

The Government is bent upon wholesale change in the Indian Universities. It is trying to deprive all, particularly poor students, of the benefit of high education as well as to take into its own hands the appointment of teachers and the general management of schools. On the other hand, an unprecedented change has been secretly brought about in the matter of the selection of text-books for schools and *pathsalas*. To the list of text-books on arithmetic, geometry, mensuration, history, geography, &c., for the middle vernacular as well as the upper and the lower primary schools, large additions have been made. It is now full of books published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. and Messrs. Longmans & Co. It is easy to see why it is so. English publishers have at last found entrance into schools and *pathsalas*, and such natives as lived by writing school-books are deprived of their subsistence. India is being governed in the interest of English commerce; the Sovereign is carrying on a trade in all sorts of things—salt, piece-goods, wine, opium, &c. Why should the Sovereign therefore encourage the education of the Indians if that education brings no profit to the English merchant? The use of books published by Longmans and Newman is now only optional; but perhaps in a year or two it will be made compulsory. We are a dependent and distressed people, and we must accept the trash that Messrs. Longmans & Co. or Messrs. Newman & Co. write for us. This is governing India for India's good.

JYOTI, Oct. 23rd, 1902.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

Complaint against a railway official.

4. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 23rd October says:—

Mr. A. J. Cooper, Officiating Traffic Manager, Assam-Bengal Railway, had no reason not to allow his clerks the late *pujah* vacation.

JYOTI, Oct. 23rd, 1902.

A steamer complaint.

5. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 25th October complains that the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Bengal Central Railway do not appear to exercise any supervision over the steamer services connected with their trains, or the steamer-passengers would not have to suffer the inconveniences which they now undergo. There is no separate accommodation in these steamers for intermediate class passengers, who have, therefore, to sit down indiscriminately with third class passengers. An ordinary screen should be put up between the

NAVA YUG, Oct. 25th, 1902.

two classes of passengers. The accommodation for female passengers is very limited and the male relatives of intermediate class female passengers are allowed to enter the place reserved for females, which is objectionable. The uncleanliness of the deck and the rude treatment by the crew of such passengers as go to the pump to draw water are also sources of serious inconvenience to passengers.

PRATIVASI, Oct. 27th, 1902.

A railway complaint.

6. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th October complains that it has become extremely unsafe for native female passengers to travel by the Eastern Bengal State Railway. In the male train on that line, the female carriage is attached next to the guard's van, while the only third class carriage for male passengers is attached next to the engine. This distance between the male passengers and their female relatives makes it impossible for the former to properly look after the safety of the latter.

(*h*)—*General.*

PRATIVASI. Oct. 27th, 1902.

Mr. Fanshawe's popularity with his clerks.

7. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th October thanks God that Mr. Fanshawe, Director-General of the Post-office in India, has recovered from his recent illness. The native clerks in Mr. Fanshawe's office performed a *pujah* at the shrine of the goddess Kali in Kalighat in consideration of his recovery, and even Christian clerks subscribed to the fund raised for the purpose. Mr. Fanshawe is an old civilian whose writings show the extent of his learning. His sense of justice and sympathy with his assistants are really striking. No wonder that his assistants on their part should feel grateful to God for his recovery.

III.—LEGISLATION.

AHSAN-UL-AKHBAR, Oct. 24th, 1902.

Management of *waqf* properties.

8. The *Ahsan-ul-Akhbar* [Calcutta] of the 24th October hopes that the Government will be pleased to carefully consider the memorial submitted by the Society for the Protection of Widows and Orphans which draws attention to the defects in the management of *waqf* properties, in consequence of which their managers are able to sell them. A law ought to be passed for better regulating the administration of *waqf* properties.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANKURA DARPAN, Oct. 23rd, 1902.

Crop prospects in the Bankura district.

9. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd October says :—

As there has not been sufficient rainfall this year in all places in the Bankura district, the paddy crop has not been a good one everywhere. The paddy plants are withering in many villages for want of rain. The people are in extreme anxiety.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AL PUNCH, Oct. 25th, 1902.

Two Musalmans invited to the Delhi Darbar.

10. *Al Panch* [Bankipore] of the 25th October is glad that two Musalman *raises*, namely, Mr. Badshah Nawab and Mr. Khurshed Nawab, have been invited to the Delhi Darbar at the instance of this paper. It is to be hoped that Government will always show consideration to those two gentlemen.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 1st November, 1902.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

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